Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 007285

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIN, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

REF: ATHENS: 0076

FOR AMBASSADOR KUBISH

- 1. UPON YOUR RETURN TO ATHENS AND IN REFERRING TO YOUR TOP-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS AT DEPARTMENT, YOU MAY INDICATE TO GREEK GOVERNMENT THAT USG SHARES THE CONCERN OF GOG THAT THE GREEK ECONOMY OVERCOME ITS CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE DIFFICULTIES. TO THIS END, WE WILL CONSIDER THE GREEK REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AS SYMPATHETICALLY AND FAVORABLY AS POSSIBLE, GIVEN OUR OWN ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CONSTRAINTS IN THE FACE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS AND WORLDWIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY AID.
- 2. AS A BEGINNING, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ESTABLISH WITH SOME PRECISION AND DETAIL THE CURRENT STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF THE GREEK ECONOMY, IN PARTICULAR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION. TO THIS END, WE WOULD BE

PREPARED EITHER TO SEND ECONOMIC EXPERTS TO ATHENS OR PREFERABLY TO RECEIVE GREEK EXPERTS HERE IN WASHINGTON TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE RESOURCES OF IMF AND IBRD TO EXAMINE AND DEVELOP BASIC ECONOMIC DATA NECESSARY FOR A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE

NOTE THE POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO BE MADE BY IMF TEAM SHORTLY TO VISIT GREECE.

3. IF GOG DESIRES, WE COULD ARRANGE PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS HERE WITH GREEK OFFICIALS ATTENDING IMF/IBRD MEETINGS JANUARY 15-17. FOLLOWING THESE TECHNICAL MEETINGS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER HOW WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL AND ENVISION FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS AT HIGHER LEVELS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. KISSINGER

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To: ATHENS

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